

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SY-10 SCCT-02 SAM-01 SAB-01 NEAE-00 AID-20

DRC-01 IO-14 /136 W

----- 107811

P R 151045Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7930

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PK

SUBJECPCG BALUCHISTAN: DEPUTY SPEAKER OF PROVINCIAL

ASSEMBLYMAN SLAIN

REF: (A) KARACHI 2489 DEC 73

(B) KARACHI 1545 JULY 1973

SUMMARY: DEPUTY SPEAKER OF BALUCHISTAN ASSEMBLY MAULIV SHAM-SUDDIN (JUI) WAS FOUND DEAD IN HIS CAR ON ROAD BETWEEN QUETTA AND FORT SANDEMAN LATE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 13 ACCORDING TO QUETTA PRESS REPORTS. INITIAL REPORTS INDICATE THAT SHAMSUDDIN, APPARENTLY UNACCOMPANIED AT THE TIME, WAS SHOT BY UNKNOWN PERSON OR PERSONS. IF FURTHER REPORTS SUBSTANTIATE THAT SHAMSUDDIN SHOT, THIS EVENT LIKELY PRODUCE MORE IMPACT ON POLITICS OF BALUCHISTAN THAN DID EARLY DECEMBER 1973

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ASSASSINATION OF MPA ABNRUS SAMAD KHAN ACHAKZAI (REFTEL A)

WITHOUT HOWEVER, CREATING ANY MAJOR PROBLEMS FOR GOP. END SUMMARY.

1. DECEASED CONFIRMED PRO-NAP, ANTI-GOVERNMENT (PPP) FIGURE:
NOT MUCH HAS BEEN HEARD OF MAULVI SHAMSUDDIN'S ACTIVITIES
SINCE HIS RELEASE FROM DETENTION AUGUST 20, 1973 (REFTEL B),
BUT HE HAS REMAINED CONSTANT IN HIS LOYALTY TO NAP/JUI
ALLIANCE. SHAMSUDDIN WAS ONLY ONE OF THREE JUI MPA'S WHO
DID NOT JUMP OVER AND JOIN GOVERNMENT SIDE FOLLOWING DISMISSAL
OF NAP/JUI PROVINCIAL MINISTRY IN FEBRUARY 1973. HE COOPERATED
WITH MODEST UDF-SPONSORED PROTEST IN LATE AUGUST AGAINST
ARREST OF NAP PROVINCIAL LEADERSHIP AND CONDUCTED SUCCESSFUL
PUBLIC PROTEST MEETINGS IN PATHAN AREA OF PROVINCE. SHAMSUDDIN
ALSO RESISTED GOVERNMENT BLANDISHMENTS OF TYPE WHICH
HIS TWO FELLOW JUI MPA'S SUCCUMBED TO WHEN THEY ACCEPTED
MINISTERSHIPS. SHAMSUDDIN'S DEATH CREATES ANOTHER ASSEMBLY
VACANCY WHICH ERODES WANING STRENGTH OF ANTI-GOVERNMENT GROUP.

2. PRELIMINARY REACTIONS: MARCH 14 WITNESSED USUAL EXPRESSION
OF REGRETS OVER SHAMSUDDIN'S MISFORTUNE BY CENTRAL, PROVINCIAL
AND POLITICAL FIGURES INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER. PREDICTABLY
OPPOSITION POLITICIANS BEMOANED ROLE OF VIOLENCE IN CURRENT
POLITICS. IN QUETTA POLICE FIRING ON GROUP ATTEMPTING MOUNT
PROCESSION REPORTED TO HAVE RESULTED IN DEATH OF TWO
DISTURBERS OF PEACE. IN RELATED EXCHANGE OF GUN FIRE TOTAL
11 POLICE AND PUBLIC RECEIVED INJURIES. SHAMSUDDIN'S DEATH
GENERATING APPRECIABLE PUBLIC COMMENT, BUT RELATIVELY LITTLE
SPECULATION REGARDING MOTIVES OF ASSASSIN.

3. COMMENT: WHILE DEPUTY SPEAKER SHAMSUDDIN, A PATHAN, WAS
NOT AS WELL KNOWN OUTSIDE OF BALUCHISTAN AS WAS THE LATE
ABDUS SAMAD KHAN ACHAKZAI, HIS DEMISE, IF THE RESULT OF
VIOLENCE, IS POTENTIALLY MORE POLITICALLY CONTENTIOUS THAN
WAS ACHAKZAI'S ASSASSINATION. SHAMSUDDIN WAS A NAP LOYALIST
AND THERE IS NO EVIDENT GAIN TO NAP FROM HIS REMOVAL FROM
SCENE. IT EQUALLY PUZZLING WHY GOVERNMENT WOULD RISK POSSIBLE
FALLOUT FROM BEING ACCUSED OF ENGINEERING HIS DEATH WHEN PPP
APPARENTLY INEXORABLY TIGHTENING THEIR HOLD ON PROVINCIAL
ASSEMBLY (KARACHI 0534) AND WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN ESTABLISHING
A MAJORITY WILLING TO RATIFY A NON-NAP PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION.

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4. INTERESTING TO WATCH WILL BE REACTION OF REVIVED PAKHTUNKHAWA
NAP WHICH HAS BEEN PLAYING BALL WITH GOVERNMENT SIDE SINCE
ACHAKZAI'S SON ELECTED TO HIS FATHER'S SEAT. IF SHAMSUDDIN'S
DEATH SHOULD INDUCE PATHANS TO VEER TOWARD BALUCH NAP, SITUATION
IN PROVINCE COULD BECOME SOMEWHAT MORE RESTIVE, BUT DOUBTFUL
IF IT WOULD REACH UNMANAGEABLE DIMENSIONS. SAME WOULD BE TRUE
IF NAP DECIDES TO MAKE SHAMSUDDIN'S DEATH A CAUSE CELEBRE AND
ADVOCATE INCREASED FORCEFUL RESISTANCE

TO REGIME. NAP LIKELY TO FEEL IT WILL HAVE TO RESPOND IN
SOME WAY TO ITS SUPPORTER'S DEMISE OR RUN RISK OF LOSING FACE
AMONG MANY OF ITS BALUCH AND POSSIBLY SOME OF ITS PATHAN
CONSTITUENTS. PATHANS MIGHT FEEL THAT NAP'S NON-COMPLIANCE
WITH PATHAN TRADITION OF BADAL (REVENGE/COMPENSATION) MADE GROUP
UNWORTHY OF ITS SUPPORT. UNLESS REACTION EXCEPTIONALLY
STRONG, IT UNLIKELY TO REVERSE PROGRESS OF BHUTTO REGIME IN
IMPOSING ITS POLITICAL WILL IN BALUCHISTAN, BUT A REACTION
OF ALMOST ANY MAGNITUDE COULD DELAY AND COMPLICATE REGIME'S
CURRENT SCENARIO FOR SOLUTION OF BALUCHISTAN'S UNSATISFACTORY
POLITICAL SITUATION.
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To: STATE
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